THE GREEN SWEATER

BY LEA STERN

Dear Knitters,

On May 30,1943, seven year old Krystyna Chiger, her parents, and three year old brother hurriedly left the Jewish Ghetto of Lvov Poland to descend into the sewers. They did so to escape the final liquidation of the ghetto and what would have been certain death in the nearby Janowska extermination camp. Helping to hide them were three Polish sewer workers led by Leopold Socha. What they hoped would be a short sojourn in an horrific environment turned into fourteen months.

Krystyna could take very few things with her, but insisted on bringing the beloved green sweater knitted for her by her grandmother. Krystyna and her family survived, and so did her sweater. It is nearly seventy five years old and is well preserved considering its age and journey.

Photo courtesy of United State Holocaust Museum

Krystyna became a dentist in Israel, married, had children, and is now retired from a successful New York City dental practice. She has written a book about her story, "The Girl In The Green Sweater."

This small child's sweater represents the resilience of the human spirit. It is something that cannot be destroyed by prejudice and intolerance and it is with these thoughts that I have reconstructed this sweater. It is meant to be as near an exact replica of Krystyna's sweater as possible. I hope I have been successful in preserving its historical accuracy.

While the original sweater is green, Quince & Co produces Finch in a wide palette of colours. The size can be altered by changing the yarn weight (i.e. sport, dk, or even worsted) and using a needle size appropriate for that yarn. Alternatively, because of its simplicity, a smaller or larger size can be made by increasing or decreasing the number of pattern repeats (pattern repeat=6 sts plus 5).

My hope is that in knitting this sweater, Krystyna's story will be told again and again to future generations. In this way, the bravery of Krystyna and her family, as well as the courageous people who helped them will never be forgotten.

Lea Stern

Materials:
4 skeins Quince & Co. Finch (100% American wool) 221 yds (202 m)/50 gms or approximately 800 yds fingering weight yarn.
US 1 (2.25mm) 24" circular or straight needles
Size C crochet hook
Gauge: In pattern Section A on US 1 needles:
Stitch: 8 sts per inch
Rows: 10 rows per inch

Measurements: Length: 14 inches
Width: 12½ inches

Project Notes:
The sweater is worked flat in pieces and seamed using mattress or back stitch. The original sweater was seamed using back stitch.
Sleeves are a modified set-in sleeve with a small puffed cap.
A crocheted border is done around the neck and sleeve edges.

Pattern Stitches:
Double Seed Stitch
Row 1,2: k2, p2
Row 3,4: p2, k2

Section A (Rows 1-6)
Row 1, 3, 5: p5, *k1, p5, repeat from * to end of row
Row 2, 4, 6: k5, *p1, k5, repeat from * to end of row

Section B (Rows 1-4)
Row 1, 3: k1, *p3, k1, p1, k1, repeat from* to last 4 sts; p3, k1
Row 2, 4: p1, *k3, p1, k1, p1, repeat from * to last 4 sts; k3, p1

Section C (Row 1-6)
Row 1: p5, *k1, p5, repeat from * to end of row
Row 2: p1, *k3, p3, repeat from * to last 4 sts; k3, p1
Row 3: k2, *p1, k5, repeat from * to last 3 sts; p1, k2
Row 4: p2, *k1, p5, repeat from * to last 3 sts; k1,p2
Row 5: k1, *p3, k3, repeat from * to last 4 sts; p3, k1
Row 6: k5, *p1, k5, repeat from * to end of row

BACK:
CO 100 sts on US 1 needle
Work double seed stitch for 12 rows and on last row, increase 1 st. (101 sts).
Next row(RS): Work Section A, B, and C once. Then work Sections *B, A, B, C. Repeat these 4 sections from * until back measures 8½ inches from cast on edge, ending with a WS row.

Begin Armholes
(RS): Continuing in pattern as set:
BO 4 sts. at beginning of next 2 rows. Then dec 1 st each side of back every RS row 6 times (81 sts).
Continue straight until armhole measures 5½ inches, ending with a WS row.
Shape shoulders (RS): Working in pattern, BO 6 sts at the beginning of the following 6 rows. BO the remaining 45 back/neck sts in pattern.

FRONT:
CO 100 sts on US 1 needle and work as for back, until front measures 2½ inches above the start of the armholes, ending with a WS row.

Divide for the Neck:
Working on **L** front with RS facing, work in pattern across the first 40 sts. Place the remaining 41 sts on a holder. (You will work the **L** and **R** fronts separately)
Continuing on the 40 sts on the needle, turn and work one WS row.

Next Row (RS): Working in pattern, dec 1 st at neck edge (39 sts) Dec 1 st at neck edge every 6th row, 4 times more (35 sts).

Continue **L** front body in pattern, until the front measures the same length as the back for shoulder shaping ending with a WS row.

Shape Left Shoulder and Neck
(RS): BO 6 sts at beginning of next 3 RS rows, and at same time at neck edge, BO 3 sts once, 2 sts twice. Work 1 row and BO remaining 10 sts in pattern.

Replace **R** front sts onto needle (41 sts). Rejoin yarn to R front. With RS facing. BO 1 center st at neck edge and work to end in pattern (40 sts). Work 1 WS row.

Next Row (RS): Dec 1 st at neck edge, and work to end of row (39 sts). Dec 1 st at neck edge every 6th row, 4 times more (35 sts). Continue **R** front body in pattern until front measures the same length as back for shoulder shaping, ending with a RS row.

Shape Right Shoulder and Neck:
Next row (WS): BO 6 sts at beginning of next 3 WS rows, and at the same time at the neck edge, BO 3 sts once, 2 sts twice. Work 1 row and BO remaining 10 sts in pattern.

SLEEVES:
Make 2 the same.
Work both sleeves in pattern as set on body. (Sections A, B, C once, then Sections B, A, B, C throughout).

CO 77 sts and work the 6 rows of Section A. Begin sleeve increases on next row.
(RS): Work 1 st, increase by M1-k or M1-p, incorporating the increases into the st pattern. Work across row to 1 st before end of row, inc by M1-k or M1-p. Work the last st (2 sts increased).

Increase 1 st at each end of sleeve every following 4th row, 4 times more (87 sts).

Note: If working the sleeve increases in pattern is confusing or unclear, the increases can be done in reverse stocking stitch and the pattern continued as written.

Continue in pattern until sleeve measures approximately 2 ½ inches from CO edge, ending with a WS row.

Next Row (RS): Maintaining pattern, BO 4 sts at beginning of next 2 rows, then dec 1 st every RS row at each sleeve edge 5 times more (69 sts).

Continue straight until sleeve measures 5 inches from CO edge, ending with a WS row.

Shape Sleeve Cap
(RS): Dec 1 st at each sleeve edge, every RS row, 10 times (49 sts).
Next Row (RS): Bind off 6 sts at beginning of next 4 rows, then 5 sts at beginning of next 2 rows (15 sts)
Next Row (RS): k3 tog across the row binding off all sts at the same time.

FINISHING:
Weave in all ends and block all pieces to finished measurements.

Sew shoulder seams with mattress or back stitch.
Set in sleeves, matching armhole shaping and center of sleeve cap to shoulder seam, easing puffed sleeve cap into armhole.

CROCHETED EDGING:
Armhole edging:
Beginning at seam, chain 5 (1st 2 ch count as 1st dc)
Row 1: *dc in 3rd sleeve st, ch 3. Continue around sleeve edge from * to first ch. Sl st in 3rd ch to join.

Row 2: *sc, hdc, dc, hdc, sc in next ch space. Repeat from * to end. Join with sl st to first sc. Fasten off.

Neck Edging:
With wrong side facing and starting at R upper corner of V neck, work sc down to bottom of V. Work 2 sc at center of V, then continue sc up to L upper corner of neck.

Row 1: At **L** side of neck, with wrong side facing, chain 5 (first 2 ch counts as 1 dc) Then *dc in 3rd neck st, ch 3. Continue from * around neck edge to upper **R** corner, dc in **R** upper neck corner. Turn work.

Row 2: (RS) *sc, hdc, dc, hdc, sc in 1st ch space. Repeat from * to end. Join with sl st to 3rd ch. Fasten off.

Weave in ends from crocheted edging on sleeves and neck.

TIES FOR NECK & SLEEVES
The original ties at the sleeves and neck were done in a simple braid that was knotted at both ends with approximately 1 inch of fringe.

To remain historically accurate, I have included instructions for the braids. The neck tie is intact on the original sweater and was easy to measure, however the braids on both sleeves have been mostly destroyed and I have provided a measurement for a braid that will fit appropriately. Knitters are certainly encouraged to vary these as desired. A good alternative would also be to use a very thin (¼ inch) ribbon woven through the crocheted edgings in a similar colour to your sweater or in a contrasting colour. Another option is a two stitch I-cord on US 1 (2.25 mm) double pointed needles in the lengths suggested for the braided versions. Please refer to the many instructional books and online sources available for instructions on how to make an I-cord.

SLEEVE TIES: Make 2
Cut three 25 inch strands from your remaining yarn. Knot them together at one end, leaving approximately 1 inch end fringe. Use a gentle clamp to attach the knotted end to a firm surface and braid the 3 strands until there is approximately 1½ inch remaining.

Knot the strands at the bottom and trim both end fringes to 1 inch beyond the knots.

Place the middle of the braid at the sleeve seam and interlace/weave it through the crocheted edging until the ends meet at the upper outer edge of the sleeve. Adjust the ties to the desired fit and tie ends in a bow.

NECK TIE: Make 1
Cut three 36 inch strands of yarn and work the braid as for the sleeve ties. Interlace/weave the finished tie through the crocheted edging of the neck.

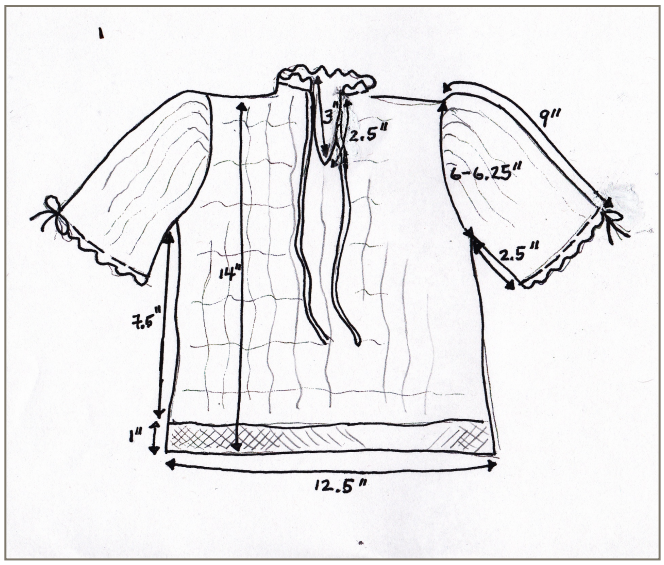
ABBREVIATIONS

st	stitch
sts	stitches
rep	repeat
p	purl
k	knit
k3tog	knit 3 sts together
CO	cast on
BO	bind off
M1	make one **(M1-k or M1-p)
inc	increase
dec	decrease
RS	right side
WS	wrong side
ch	chain
sc	single crochet
hdc	half double crochet
dc	double croc

RS	right side
WS	wrong side
ch	chain
sc	single crochet
hdc	half double crochet
dc	double crochet
sl st	slip stitch

**M1-K: with Left needle tip, lift horizontal yarn strand between needles from front to back. Knit lifted loop through the back.

**M1-P: with Left needle tip, lift horizontal yarn strand between needles from back to front. Purl lifted loop through the front.



Studying the sweater at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.
Photo by Julia Grossman

Special thanks to Dr. Kristine Keren, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Curator: Suzy Snyder, and Conservator: Cynthia Hughes. Technical assistance: Julia Grossman and Phyliss Jaffe. Illustration by Kathryn Williams.

All proceeds from the sale of this pattern go directly to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum